

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson Jr. today issued the following statement regarding the Illinois State Police raid on the Harvey Police Department headquarters:

"Last summer the citizens of Harvey called my office for help. They told me that they had lost confidence in the Harvey Police Department. Crimes weren't getting solved. Evidence turned up missing. Officers were hard to find. This left the citizens and the department at-risk," Jackson said.

"At that time, I said 'enough is enough' and I asked the Mayor of Harvey to reach out and invite in the Illinois State Police and Cook County Sheriffs for assistance to solve this crisis. But the mayor rejected my request and refused to seek outside help.

"Now, it appears that the State and County authorities feel compelled to look into Harvey Police operations on their own. It's a sad day when police departments have to police other police departments, but in this case, I embrace and welcome it.

"The law-abiding citizens and officers who honor the badge need to be protected, while the officers who fail to honor it need to be exposed and prosecuted. Mayor Kellogg must be held personally responsible for today's events, which were completely avoidable," Jackson said.